

XXXIII.—*Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club.*

Nos. LXX.—LXXII.

No. LXX. (March 31st, 1900).

THE sixty-ninth Meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 21st of March, 1900. *Chairman*: P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S. Thirty Members and five guests were present.

THE HON. WALTER ROTHSCHILD exhibited an adult specimen of the so-called *Aquila fulvescens*, shot by Herr Führer in Albania, together with a young bird obtained about the same time and place. For comparison he placed on the table adult and young birds of the Great Spotted Eagle (*Aquila maculata*) and the Small Spotted Eagle (*Aquila pomarina*), and made the following remarks:—"The name *Aquila fulvescens* has hitherto been bestowed on Indian specimens, and this form has, up to the present time, been admitted by British ornithologists to be a well-marked and distinct species. The late Eugen von Hlomeyer described a European example under the name of *Aquila boeckii*, and since then, including the one exhibited to-night, three more examples have been recorded from Europe. Mr. Hartert, Dr. Otto Reiser (*in litt.*), and several other naturalists have more than once drawn attention to the exactly similar proportions and external characters existing between *Aquila maculata* and *Aquila fulvescens*, the only difference being in the colour of the plumage, and they have suggested that *A. boeckii* might be a more or less constant aberration of *Aquila maculata*.

"I think that the young bird exhibited will convince most ornithologists, as it has myself, that *Aquila fulvescens* is really a parallel 'aberration' to the light forms of the Common Buzzard, *Buteo buteo*, and that it is not a good species. This young bird has the upper and under tail-coverts, as well as the feathers of the leg and thigh, of the same pale buff colour, and in these markings it resembles the adult *Aquila fulvescens*; while the rest of its plumage is identical with typical young of *Aquila maculata*. A further proof is

that a few examples of the Indian Little Spotted Eagle (*A. hastata*) show a tendency to have large buff areas of plumage. I therefore consider that there are only three species of Spotted Eagles with round nostrils, viz.: 1. *Aquila maculata*, 2. *Aquila pomarina*, 3. *Aquila hastata*. It follows, therefore, that *Aquila fulvescens* must be sunk as a species and must stand as *Aquila maculata*, aberr. *fulvescens*."

Mr. ROTHSCHILD exhibited a series of birds from the island of S. Thomé, in the Bight of Benin, and made remarks on some of the species which were peculiar to the island.

He also called the attention of the meeting to some remarkable specimens of *Phalacrocorax chalconotus*, illustrating the breeding-plumage of the species, with the tufts of white filamentous plumes above the eyes. The young birds had formerly been described as *Phalacrocorax glaucus*, but specimens in intermediate stages of plumage in the Tring Museum showed that *P. glaucus* and *P. chalconotus* were identical.

Mr. ROTHSCHILD exhibited specimens of the Balkan Shore-Lark (*Otocorys balcanica*).

He also exhibited a specimen of a young bird of *Urubitinga urubitinga*, which had been captured by Mr. André at a distance of 200 yards inside the great cave of the *Steatornis*, at Caripé in Venezuela.

Mr. ERNST HARTERT described a new Spine-tailed Swift as follows:—

CHÆTURA THOMENSIS, sp. n.

This remarkable new species of *Chætura* is smaller than all the other African species, and the wings, though fully as long as those of *Chætura sabinei*, are much narrower, softer, and weaker. It is doubtless the bird mentioned by Mr. Newton, of Lisbon, as *Ch. cassini*, but no specimen appears to have been procured by him. *Ch. cassini* is much larger, and has a much shorter and stiffer tail than *Ch. thomensis*,

and *Ch. sabinei* has a much broader wing, and its under and upper tail-coverts are so much elongated as to cover the rectrices above and below, while in *Ch. thomensis* they leave nearly 2 cm. above and about 1 cm. below uncovered.

Ch. thomensis is black above, including the wings and tail, with greenish and steel-blue reflections. Throat and breast dull greyish black, without gloss. Abdomen white, with dull black shaft-lines to the feathers. Upper and under tail-coverts white, with broad black shaft-streaks; the longest upper tail-coverts almost entirely brownish black. Underwing-coverts black. Total length about 105 mm. (from tip of bill to end of tail), wing 116–117, tail 43, the bare tarso-metatarsus 8·5 mm.

Three adult specimens were procured at Pedroma on the island of San Thomé, W. Africa, by Mr. Albert Mocquerys.

Mr. W. E. D. SCOTT exhibited a series of interesting photographs of the nests of the Spine-tailed Swift of North America (*Chaetura pelagica*), showing the growth of the nestlings at different periods of their advancement in age. He also gave some interesting details of the habits of the species. The photographs had been rendered possible by the removal of the sides of the chimney in his own house, so as to reveal the nests *in situ*.

Mr. SCOTT also contributed the following notes on three new species of *Tyrannidae* from Patagonia, specimens of which he placed before the meeting:—

“The descriptions of these birds, apparently heretofore unknown, are based on material collected in Patagonia by Mr. J. B. Hatcher. Mr. Hatcher was sent on a scientific mission to this region by the University of Princeton, New Jersey, U.S.A. The study of the geology of the country and the collection of palæontological specimens were the chief objects of this expedition, but the collection of about one thousand birds clearly indicates that the existing fauna was in no way neglected. All of this ornithological

material is now at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, whither I have brought the specimens by the direction of Princeton University, the British Museum being the only place where adequate comparisons can be made. A monograph in detail will be the ultimate result of this work, and in the meantime diagnoses of such birds as appear to be undescribed will be communicated to the British Ornithologists' Club.

“*MUSCISAXICOLA GARRETTI*, sp. n.

“♂. Fronte nigro, pileo reliquo castaneo: hypochondriis et subcaudalibus pallide cinnamomeis. Long. tot. circa 6·4 poll., culm. 0·7, alæ 4·3, caudæ 2·55, tarsi 1·2.

“♀. Mari similis. Alæ 4·4 poll.

“*Hab.* Near Coy Inlet, Patagonia, October 1896. Princeton University Collection, Nos. 7643, 7644.

“This species is named after Mr. John W. Garrett, of Baltimore, Maryland, in appreciation of the assistance which he has rendered to the expeditions sent to Patagonia.

“*MUSCISAXICOLA HATCHERI*, sp. n.

“♂. Similis *M. griseæ*, sed magis brunnescens: linea frontali alba, et remigibus albo fasciatis apicatis distinguenda. Long. tot. circa 6·5 poll., culm. 0·7, alæ 5·0, caudæ 2·75, tarsi 1·3.

“*Hab.* Cordillera, Upper Rio Chico, Patagonia, 18 February, 1897. Princeton University Collection, No. 7645.

“This species is named after Mr. J. B. Hatcher, whose work in Patagonia has contributed largely to our knowledge of the past and present fauna of that country.

“*AGRIORNIS POLIOSOMA*, sp. n.

“♂. Similis *A. maritimæ*, sed plumbescenti-brunneus: gastræo quoque plumbescenti-brunneo: subcaudalibus albis: crisso vix cervino tincto: gutture albo, distincte nigro striolato: fascia superciliari alba distincta: maculâ locali nigrâ: genis albis, nigro striatis: caudæ pro 1·0 poll. ad apicem albo terminata. Long. tot. 9·3 poll., culm. 1·15, alæ 5·3, caudæ 4·0, tarsi 1·3.

“*Hab.* Arroyo Gio, Patagonia, 20 May, 1898. Princeton University Collection, No. 7927.

“This species is closely allied to *A. maritima*, but is distinguished by its leaden-brown plumage and *white* superciliary streaks, as well as by the increased amount of white on the tail-feathers.”

Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE exhibited a specimen of the rare *Bubo letti*, Büttik., from the Rio Benito, French Congo, obtained by Mr. G. L. Bates. The species had been originally described by Dr. Büttikofer from Liberia, and placed by him in the genus *Bubo*. The present specimen, however, had been examined by Mr. Pycraft for its pterylography, and Dr. Sharpe, judging by its external characters, concurred with him that it belonged to the genus *Scops*, and should be known as *Scops letti* (Büttik.).

Another interesting bird procured by Mr. Bates was a white-spotted Crake, which did not seem to be quite the same as *Canirallus oculeus* of the Gold Coast. It was identical, however, with the bird from the Cameroons, and Dr. Sharpe had already referred (Cat. B. xxiii. p. 73) to the differences exhibited by the birds of the latter country. He therefore proposed to describe the Crake from the French Congo and the Cameroons as

CANIRALLUS BATESI, sp. n.

Ad. Similis *C. oculeo*, sed saturatior, dorso saturatè olivascenti-brunneo, nec virescenti-olivacco: pileo sordidè brunneo, nec rufescenti-brunneo: fronte et facie laterali, sicut in *C. oculeo*, cinereis; regione auriculari quoque cinereâ. Long. tot. 11·0 poll., culm. 1·35, alæ 6·3, caudæ 2·4, tarsi 1·95.

Among other interesting birds obtained on the Rio Benito on the same occasion were examples of *Bubulcus lucidus* and *Calopelia brehmeri*.

Dr. SHARPE likewise exhibited a specimen of a Goshawk from British Guiana, from the collection of Mr. F. V. McConnell. Feeling sure that it was *Astur jardinii* of Gurney (Ibis, 1887, p. 96, pl. iii.), Dr. Sharpe had sent the specimen to Mr. James Reeve, the Director of the Castle

Museum at Norwich, for comparison with the type and unique example of the species in that museum. Mr. Reeve stated that the Guiana example was identical with the type of *A. jardinii*, and therefore the habitat of this species, previously unknown, was now ascertained to be Guiana.

MR. OGILVIE GRANT, on behalf of Mr. C. B. Rickett, exhibited an example of a very distinct new species of Scops Owl, for which Mr. Rickett had proposed the name of

SCOPS LATOUCHII, sp. n.

Adult male. This species belongs to the yellow-billed group of the genus *Scops*, and is apparently most nearly allied to *S. icterorhyncha*, Shelley, from the Gold Coast, and more distantly related to *S. rufescens* (Horsf.), from Malacca and the Sunda Islands. The pale frontal band is, however, less conspicuous than in the above-named species. *Scops latouchii* differs chiefly from *S. icterorhyncha* in having the feathers of the head and mantle distinctly barred with black and rufous buff; but the barring is mostly concealed by the wide reddish-brown tips to the feathers, which are very finely vermiculated with black; the tail is rather strongly marked with irregular bars and mottlings of black on a brownish-red ground; the bars on the outermost primaries are rufous buff instead of white; the underparts are whitish buff, shading into rufous on the upper breast and flanks, entirely devoid of dark shaft-streaks, but very finely vermiculated with brownish black; the feathers covering the basal part of the belly, vent, and the longish flank-plumes are pure white, some of the latter, like the under tail-coverts, having reddish-brown bars.

Total length about 9.0 inches, wing 5.9, tail 3.5, tarsus 1.15.

Hab. Ah Ch'ung, Fohkien, 16th December, 1899.

MR. DIGBY PIGOTT communicated a note from his friend Mr. J. R. Dasent, C.B., who had just returned from his yearly visit to the island of St. Vincent, West Indies.

Mr. Dasent stated that the destruction of bird-life of all

kinds by the hurricane of September 1898 had been very great. A small bronze-green Humming-bird, which had before been the commonest and boldest bird in the island, had, it was believed, entirely disappeared. During the seven weeks of Mr. Dasent's stay he had not noticed one of these birds, though on previous visits they were to be seen, sitting on telephone wires &c., and as plentiful as Swallows in summer in England. Mr. Thompson, the Administrator, had told him that since the hurricane he had neither himself, nor had he met with anyone who had, observed one of these birds. Two other Humming-birds, formerly less common than the extinguished species, still existed in the island, but in much reduced numbers.

A Parrot, usually to be found only with difficulty in the mountain forests, and a Pigeon (known locally as "Ramier")—also an exceptionally shy bird—after the hurricane came about, and even into, the towns in search of food, in large numbers (the Parrots singly, the Pigeons in small parties), many of them in such an exhausted state as to be easily caught by hand.

Mr. SCLATER called attention to the Report of the Society for the Protection of Birds (of which he was one of the Vice-Presidents) as adopted at the Anniversary Meeting on 26th February last. Mr. Sclater was quite in accord with the general objects of this Society as explained in their prospectus, although, as regards protective legislation, he was of opinion that interference in this matter by Acts of Parliament might be sometimes carried too far. He thought, however, that every lover of birds would do well to join the Society.

Mr. SCLATER stated that Messrs. Goodfellow and Hamilton (who were present as guests on this occasion) had lately returned from a successful expedition in the Colombian and Equatorian Andes, during which they had made a collection of upwards of 5000 bird-skins, comprising examples of many rare species. The travellers had landed at Buenaventura on the Pacific coast in April 1898, and had thence crossed the

Andes, into the valley of the Cauca. This was ascended, and, passing through Popayán, Messrs. Goodfellow and Hamilton had entered the Republic of Ecuador at Tulcan, proceeding thence to Quito, where a lengthened stay was made. From Quito excursions were effected to Pichincha, and to the low country on the Pacific coast near Santo Domingo. Leaving Quito on March 1st last year, Messrs. Goodfellow and Hamilton crossed the Andes to the upper waters of the Napo, and descended that river in canoes to Yquitos on the Amazons, in Peru, whence the journey home was effected by steamer.

Mr. Goodfellow was preparing an account of the birds collected during this remarkable journey for 'The Ibis.' In the meanwhile Mr. Selater called attention to two noticeable specimens. One of these was an example of a male Fruit-Crow (*Gymnoderus foetidus*) in fully adult plumage. Mr. Selater exhibited a coloured drawing, taken from the fresh specimen by Mr. Hamilton, of the head of this bird, showing the extraordinary development of the pale blue wattles of the neck, which had never been correctly represented or described, and were so different in appearance from ordinary specimens of this bird that Mr. Selater had, at first, been inclined to regard the Ecuador bird as a distinct species. The second bird exhibited was an example of the little-known *Myiadestes coracinus* Berlepsch, from the forests of the Upper Napo.

No. LXXI. (April 30th, 1900).

THE seventieth Meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 25th of April, 1900. *Chairman*: P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S. Forty Members and thirteen guests were present.

Mr. W. E. D. SCOTT described the following apparently new or hitherto undetected species of birds from South America. Some of these birds had been procured by

Mr. J. B. Hatcher in Patagonia, but most of them were previously represented in the collection of the British Museum.

CINCLODES OUSTALETI, sp. n.

Similis *C. patachónico*, sed multo minor, et abdomine medio albo distinguendus: alæ 3·55 nec 4·1, culmine 0·8 nec 1·0. Suprà chokolatino-brunneus, pileo dorso concolori: subtùs chokolatinus, nec grisesceus, et minùs distinctè striatus. Long. tot. 6·5 poll., culm. 0·8, alæ 3·7, caudæ 2·5, tarsi 1·05.

Hab. Chile, and Mendoza in Argentina. [Type *ex* Central Chile: *Berkeley James Coll., Mus. Brit.*]

CINCLODES MOLITOR.

♂. Similis *C. oustaleti*, sed major et subtùs albido sparsim striatus, notæo et hypochondriis chokolatino-brunneis, sed abdomine brunneo nec albo et subcaudalibus albo striatis distinguendus. Long. tot. 7·5 poll., culm. 0·95, alæ 4·0, caudæ 3·0, tarsi 1·1.

Hab. Chile. [Type *ex* Chile (*Leybold*): *Salvin-Godman Coll., Mus. Brit.*]

CINCLODES OREOBATES, sp. n.

♂. Similis *C. fusco*, sed rufescentior: pectore fusco obscure marmorato nec albido distinctè striolato: hypochondriis et subcaudalibus et rectricum apicibus rufescentibus nec grisescenti-brunneis: gutture albo, vix fusco fasciatim notato. Long. tot. 6·8 poll., culm. 0·85, alæ 3·9, caudæ 2·7, tarsi 1·2.

Hab. Colombia. [Type *ex* Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta, Colombia (*F. A. A. Simons*): *Sclater Coll., Mus. Brit.*]

CINCLODES SPARSIM-STRIATUS, sp. n.

♂. Similis *C. nigrofumoso*, sed subtùs vix albo striolatus, et gutture fusco, sordidè isabellino striato facile distinguendus. Long. tot. 8·7 poll., culm. 1·0, alæ 4·5, caudæ 3·2, tarsi 1·2.

Hab. Peru. [Type *ex* Islay (*H. Whitely*): *Sclater Coll., Mus. Brit.*]

UPUCERTHIA DARWINI, sp. n.

♂. Similis *U. dumetoriae*, sed ubique rufescentior, alis

caudaque præcipue rufescentibus : rectricibus medianis rufescentibus nec grisco-brunneis distinguendus. Long. tot. 8·2 poll., culm. 1·35, alæ 3·9, caudæ 3·15, tarsi 1·05.

Hab. Mendoza, Argentina. [*Salvin-Godman Coll., Mus. Brit.*]

UPUCERTHIA SATURIOR, sp. n.

U. similis *U. dumetoriæ*, sed saturator, hypochondriis concoloribus minimè striolatis notatis : suprâ chokolatino-brunnea, regione parotica cervino nec albedo striolata. Long. tot. 7·5, culm. 1·25, alæ 3·8, caudæ 3 0, tarsi 1·0.

Hab. Chile. [Type *ex* Central Chile : *Berkeley James Coll., Mus. Brit.*]

UPUCERTHIA FITZGERALDI, sp. n.

♀. *U.* similis *U. validirostri*, sed caudâ nigricanti-brunneâ nec rufescente, gutture albedo, plumis angustè fusco fasciatim marginatis distinguenda. Long. tot. 8·2 poll., culm. 1·5, alæ 3·9, caudæ 2·75, tarsi 1·05.

Hab. Puente del Inca, Argentina, March 9, 1897 (*E. A. Fitzgerald, Mus. Brit.*).

GEOSITTA BREVIROSTRIS, sp. n.

♀. Similis *G. cuniculariæ*, sed rostro multo brevior (0·65, minimè 0·8), alâ tamen longior (4·20 nec 3·75), supra-caudalibus lactescenti-albis, alâ minimè extus rufescente distinguenda. Long. tot. 6·0 poll., caudæ 2·25, tarsi 0·85.

Hab. Mt. Tigre, Patagonia, Aug. 14, 1896. [Type in Mus. Princeton, No. 7769.] Central Chile (*Berkeley James Coll., Mus. Brit.*).

HENICORNIS WALLISI, sp. n.

♀. Similis *H. phænicuræ*, sed major, rostro longior et alâ brevior, rectricibus medianis brunneis nec basaliter castaneis distinguenda. Long. tot. 7·0 poll., culm. 0·95, alæ 2·9, caudæ 2·65, tarsi 0·9.

Hab. Arroyo Eke, Patagonia, May 24, 1898. [Type in Mus. Princeton, No. 7939.] Chuput (*H. Durnford, Mus. Brit.*).

Named in honour of Harrison P. Wallis, Esq., of Brooklyn, N.Y.

AGRIORNIS LEUCURUS.

(*Agriornis leucurus*, Gould, Voy. 'Beagle,' Birds, pl. xiii. *nomen nudum*.)

Similis *A. maritimo*, sed minor, multò saturatior, et rostro longiore distinguendus. Suprà sordidè brunnescens nec cinerascens-brunneus: corpore subtùs brunnescentiore, abdomine vix pallidior. Long. tot. 8·5 poll., eulm. 1·15, alæ 4·65, caudæ 3·2, tarsi 1·35. [Type in Mus. Brit. ex Port Desire, Patagonia (*C. Darwin*).]

PHRYGILUS PRINCETONIANUS, sp. n.

♂. Similis *P. melanodero*, sed minor: suprà grisescens, vix viridi lavatus: pileo et facie laterali clarè cinereis: palpebrâ, regione post-oculari, et strigâ latâ mystacali albis: plagâ lorali et gutture toto nigris: subtùs lætè flavus: alâ totâ conspicuè lætè flavâ, tectricibus primariorum nigro terminatis. Long. tot. 5·6 poll., culm. 0·5, alæ 3·6, caudæ 2·4, tarsi 0·85.

Hab. Cheike, Patagonia, Jan. 16, 1898. [Type in Mus. Princeton, No. 7698.]

Mr. SCLATER exhibited a third set of photographs of rare Australian birds' nests and eggs which had been forwarded to him by Mr. D. Le Souëf, of Melbourne. Amongst these were figures of the nests and eggs of several little-known Honey-eaters, also those of the *Oreæca cristata* and the suspended nest of Kaup's Flycatcher (*Arses kaupi*).

The rest of the evening was spent in examining the specimens of albinos and colour-variations of birds, most of which had been brought by Mr. Rothschild from his Museum at Tring. A full account of this exhibition is contained in a supplementary number of the Bulletin.

No. LXXII. (May 31st, 1900.)

Chairman: F. D. GODMAN, D.C.L., F.R.S. Forty-three members and five guests were present.

The Hon. WALTER ROTHSCHILD exhibited a specimen of *Burnesia gracilis* shot by his brother at Luxor, in Egypt,

which was remarkable for its pronounced ashy-grey colour, and stated that when flying this species frequently carried its tail erect over the back like the Lyre-bird (*Menura*).

The Hon. CHARLES ROTHSCHILD exhibited a number of birds collected by him and Mr. Francis Gaynor on their journey from Cairo to Khartoum, among which were four species of Wheatear (*Saxicola*), two of *Merops*, *Lanius nubicus*, *Milvus migrans*, *Circus swainsoni*, and a young *Coccytes glandarius* from a nest of *Corvus cornix*. He also exhibited a very old male of *Anastomus lamellifer*, procured twenty miles to the south of Khartoum on the White Nile; this was believed to be the most northern locality recorded for the species.

The Hon. WALTER ROTHSCHILD exhibited a new Bird of Paradise, which he described as follows:—

“*PAROTIA DUIVENBODEI*, sp. nov.

“♂ *adult*. Pectoral shield more extended and of a different shape, structure, and colour to that of either *P. sefilata*, *P. lawesi*, or *P. helenæ*. The shield, in fact, consists of a much larger number of rows of small and narrow feathers, which are also not so smooth. The ruff on the sides of the neck does not extend so far across the throat, and in consequence the metallic feathers of the pectoral shield itself reach further up on the throat, gradually diminishing in size and number. The black central shaft-patches on the lateral feathers of the shield are narrower and much less numerous. The colour of the pectoral shield is glittering metallic green, with a few feathers on the edges of the shield margined with blue, whereas in the three allied species the shield is of a brilliant coppery greenish-golden colour. There is no long erect tuft on the forehead, and the crest of feathers on the head is scarcely developed. The glittering occipital band of the other allied species of *Parotia* is replaced by a large triangular and rather wedge-shaped shield of metallic bluish-green feathers extending from between the eyes to the occiput.

“ There is no white anywhere on the head, and the colour of the latter is of the same deep glossy purple as on the rest of the upper surface, *not* glossed with oily brown as in the three allied species. The first and second primaries are less abruptly emarginate than in the allied forms.

“ In the specimen described there is only one head-plume on each side instead of three, and although Mr. Ernst Hartert and I have both examined most carefully the feathers of the head we have been unable to find traces of any more; but until a large series arrives, or we find a specimen with more of these ornamental plumes, it cannot be definitely determined that this is a good and real character of the species. Wing 150 mm., tail 115 mm., tarsus 38 mm., culmen 34 mm.

“ *Hab.* Dutch New Guinea (Van Renesse van Duivenbode).”

Mr. ROTHSCHILD also exhibited two rare birds from the Ambernoh River, in Dutch New Guinea: *Nasiterna bruijni*, one of the smallest of Parrots, and *Chenorhamphus grayi*, a very rare Flycatcher, of which Wallace had obtained a single specimen (the type) at Sorong.

Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE described three apparently new species of birds obtained by Lord Delamere in British East Africa:—

SPIZOCORYS ATHENSIS, sp. n.

♂. *S. conirostri* affinis, sed valdè diversa: suprà alaudina, haud arenicolor: rostro corneo: subtus isabellino-alba, maculis præpectoralibus nigris notata: plagâ nigrâ ad latera colli conspicuâ, sed subalaribus et primariis intus cinerascentibus, illis obscurè arenaceo marginatis præcipuè distinguenda. Long. tot. 5·5 poll., culm. 0·55, alæ 3·5, caudæ 2·0, tarsi 0·8.

Hab. Athi River, Nov. 14, 1899.

A further interesting discovery was a second species of the genus *Pseudalæmon* of Lort Phillips (Ibis, 1898, p. 400):—

PSEUDALÆMON DELAMEREI, sp. n.

Similis *P. fremantlii* et eodem modo figurata, sed grisescens nec arenacea: corpore subtus isabellino, hypochondriis

brunnescens nigræ angustè striolatis, et pectore evidenter nigro striolatis maculato distinguenda. Long. tot. 5·5 poll., culm. 0·7, alæ 3·5, caudæ 1·75, tarsi 0·8.

Hab. Athi River, Nov. 17, 1899.

ESTRILDA DELAMERÆ, sp. n.

E. similis *E. erythronotæ*, et subcaudalibus abdomineque nigris, sed omninò pallidior, et fasciis alæ clarè margaritaceis nec cineraceis; notæo pallidè cinereo-vinaceo: gutture imo et præpectore pallidè roseis: hypochondriis rosaceis, nec coccineis, distinguenda. Long. tot. 4·7 poll., culm. 0·4, alæ 2·1, caudæ 2·25, tarsi 0·6.

Hab. Athi River, Nov. 8, 1899.

Dr. SHARPE gave a short account of the history of the B. O. C. and the work performed by the members since the foundation of the Club eight years ago.

Mr. MEADE-WALDO called the attention of the Union to the way in which rare birds were still being persecuted and destroyed in Great Britain. He felt sure that no member of the Union would willingly assist in bringing about this lamentable occurrence, but that in consideration of the persistency with which all our rare breeding birds were annually harried by British egg-collectors, and on that account of the great difficulty, if not impossibility, experienced by landed proprietors in preserving them, he considered that the time had come to make a supreme effort. He proposed the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. H. M. Upcher, and carried unanimously:—

“That any member of the Union, directly or indirectly responsible for the destruction of nest, eggs, young, or parent-birds of any of the species mentioned below—Osprey, Kite, White-tailed Eagle, Honey-Buzzard, Common Buzzard, Hoopoe, Golden Oriole, Ruff, Bittern, and Chough—should be visited with the severest censure of the Union.”

A discussion ensued, in which the President and other members took part.

THE HON. G. LASCELLES gave an interesting account of the efforts made by the Crown for the preservation of the birds in the New Forest. He lamented that, in spite of the strenuous efforts made, the keepers were only partially successful, although men were specially told off to guard the nesting-place of some rare species. He was pleased to say, however, that on some occasions their efforts had been rewarded with success.

MR. FITZHERBERT-BROCKHOLES exhibited a remarkable nest, jointly constructed and inhabited by a Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) and a Hedge-Accentor (*Accentor modularis*).

XXXIV.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

[Continued from p. 397.]

69. 'Annals of Scottish Natural History.'

[The Annals of Scottish Natural History. No. 33, January 1900, and No. 34, April 1900.]

MR. W. BERRY opens the year with some remarks on the operation of the Wild Birds' Protection Act of 1894 in Fifeshire, especially in the "Tentsmuir" district. This was formerly stripped of the eggs of Plovers, Curlews, Terns, and Ducks (including the Eider), not only for eating, but largely to supply collectors and dealers, to whom large numbers used to be regularly despatched by rail. Since 1897, however, the law seems to have exercised a perceptible influence, and all these birds have increased in numbers, while the Shoveler Duck has been added to the list of breeders, and the Pintail requires to be included among the species requiring protection in that area. In the April number, rather earlier than usual, Mr. Laidlaw brings out his valuable report for 1899 on the movements and occurrences of birds in Scotland, in which among the rarest visitants may be noticed the Bee-eater in Shetland and the Pratincole near